

WELDING SAFETY

GAS WELDING:

- 1) All gas welding equipment and connections must be kept free from grease and oil. (Oxygen will explode upon contact with oil or grease.) Oily or greasy gloves may result in the same effect.
- 2) Cylinders must be stored and used in the upright, position. Do not roll cylinders on their sides. Do not carry or hoist cylinders unless they are properly slung. Use a skid for unloading cylinders.
- 3) All cylinders, capped, uncapped, empty or full, must be secured from falling all times.
- 4) Fuel gas and oxygen cylinders in storage must be separated by a minimum of 20 feet distance or a 5 foot high barrier with a fire rating of one half hour.
- 5) Use only approved green oxygen hose with right hand thread couplings and approved red fuel gas hose with left hand thread couplings.
- 6) Blow out cylinder valve couplings by briefly opening each cylinder valve prior to attaching the regulator. Perform this operation in a well ventilated area. Do not use compressed air to blow out valves as the air may contain oil.
- 7) When changing cylinders: close the empty cylinder valve, release the regulator thumb screw, disconnect the regulator, blow out the new cylinder valve, attach the regulator to the full cylinder, stand on the opposite side of the cylinder, point the fuel gas valve outlet away from the oxygen cylinder, face away from the gauge while opening the cylinder valve, adjust the thumb screw on the regulator to the proper pressure (excess oxygen causes unnecessary sparks during operation), fuel gas should be opened only three-fourths of a turn, never more than one and one-half turns.
- 8) Clean the torch tip before lighting. Use friction lighters only.
- 9) Position materials to prevent sparks and hot metal from contacting the hoses or other persons.
- 10) After work is completed turn cylinder valves off. Survey the work area to be certain that no hot items remain to cause a fire.

ELECTRIC ARC WELDING:

- 1) Only authorized operators are permitted to use welding equipment.
- 2) Helmets and shields must be used for welding operations.
- 3) When possible, welding operations should be shielded by a booth or a screen to protect others from welding flash.
- 4) All personnel in a welding area are required to use proper eye protection.
- 5) The welding of zinc coated materials requires the operator to use appropriate respiratory protection.
- 6) Deposit rod ends in a special container to prevent burns, fires and slip hazards.
- 7) When not in use, place the rod holder where it cannot make an arc.
- 8) Maintain welding lead cables in good condition. Do not use cables which are cracked, damaged or bare.